





After we have conquered the rebel-

and reestablished the supremacy of the laws, no greater punishment could be inflicted on the insurgents than to ask them to take the initiative in making proposals for the restoration of the Union. But to this would make them stand self-conscious of the monstrous folly of having inaugurated, and prosecuted for two and a half years, one of the most terrible civil wars ever known in the world's history, without a real cause of complaint, without a fancied or real grievance that could not have been settled by the sure corrective of the ballot-box, and after having deserted the halls of Congress at a time when their votes and influence could have rendered powerless the incoming administration of President Lincoln, whose advent to power was the sole pretext of all their belligerent acts. Any attempt, therefore, of the leaders of the rebellion to glorify in their deeds

now expose them to ridicule by showing how Quixotic have been their efforts at reform, when they actually had no well-grounded cause of any complaint. Why, however, these persons, who have been deceived by their own pretense, would stand up for the cause of the oppressed, and defend the preceding States might plead that they had been deceived by a long and systematic preparation to fire their hearts and precipitate them into rebellion; and that the real motive of the schemer was so cruelly disguised that they were unable to see it. But the time was too late to recede; they had tied the mill-stones around their necks, and they could not escape going down with it, hopeless of all assistance. It was too late to stop the discrimination until they had touched the bottom of the abyss. They had committed the crime that this insidious teaching and the crafty and hypocritical conduct of the Southern people loved the old Union, reverence its constitution, and honored its laws. When South Carolina broke out in volcanic eruption, and the lava flow of rebellion

ated against Sumner, the Southern masses were not so much alarmed as they were shocked. State followed her into secession, unless it was accomplished by violence or force. Virginia, Tennessee, and Louisiana, voted against secession, but these States were made the victims of the base conspiracies and were carried over to the side of the rebellion. The States of Georgia, fraudulent returns of elections on the question of secession, and by being overawed by armed hands in the service of the men who are not the despots of the Confederacy. From the North the Union sentiment was crushed out, and the people were so intimidated by the government, and then the agents of reaction began to appear among the people. Thus, in the Raleigh (N.C.) Standard of the 24th ult., there is an article in reply to one attacking it in the Richmond Enquirer, in which latter it is said that "the Government is so degraded and so despotic that the State, then the State ought to go out of the Confederacy and make submission on its own account." To this the Editor of the Standard replies that "the views of his paper in favor of

Suppose this State, thus invited to go on, had not gone in, where would the Confederacy have been to-day? Where would the cotton States have been? Where would Virginia have been? Where would North Carolina? Richmond would have been long since in the hands of the enemy, and the States south of us would have been occupied at every point and their people crushed into the earth. No North Carolina troops saved Richmond when assailed by McClellan; they won the battle of Chancellorsville, but they were not at Gettysburg. On Pennsylvania, they defended Richmond under Gen. Hill. Our people and troops have

done more for Virginia and the cotton States than they have done for themselves. And now, because they do not act in such a way as to please the people of the cotton States, they are invited to take themselves out of the Confederacy! They will do so if they choose, in their own good time. They will not be hurried nor retarded by their enemies.

These are not the mere individual sentiments of the Editor, for he is confident that he expresses the sympathy of the people with him, and that he speaks for two-thirds of the inhabitants of his State. But as the leaders had paved the way for the act of secession, so seems to be necessary now to prepare the public mind for a return to allegiance and

reconstruction. This will explain the somewhat remarkable language in which the Standard closes its reply to the Equivocator, follows:

"Does not our critic know that in the event of being overrun and conquered by the enemy reconstruction would be impossible? Does he not know that Mr. Lincoln would say, 'Gentlemen, you cannot reconstruct what you have not destroyed. Indeed, you never been out of the Union, and I thought you were, but you are mistaken. Resume your duties as members of the Union on a footing with the most favored State. We tell him that we have been and still are devoted to the cause of independence; but, we stated in the article on the subject of post-

did not like those chances and we cannot change them. We are despondent, but we are not in despair. We tell the people the truth, and for this we are censured. We should feel the humiliation of a restoration to the old government so profoundly and so acutely that we would be the first to suggest, but if the people of this State, with false hope or restoration staring them in the face, would not accept the alternative, we should sadly and reluctantly accept the latter, it would not be in our power to prevent it, even if we would.

These are the premonitory symptoms of a union in the Atlantic States, and the indications from the Southwest are still more positive and cheering. A *Vicksburg Correspondent* of the *Chicago Times*, on the 24th of Jan-

after the retreat of Johnston's army from Jackson, wrote that Gen. Sherman had ported to Gen. Grant that: "the people of Mississippi acknowledge themselves thoroughly conquered, admit their inability longer successfully to oppose the Federal Government, express their willingness to come into the Union again on any terms, and beg of him in the name of everything sacred to oppress them no further. Judge Sharkey, Mr. Miller, Pointdexter, and other prominent men of the State came forward, and proposed organizing a State Government favorable to a reconstruction of the Union on the best obtainable terms. It is difficult to suggest that the

The late news of the fall of Port Hudson and the retreat of Bragg and Lee, had produced a marked effect on Johnston's army which was much disheartened and discouraged in consequence, and openly declared they were no longer to fight. After the fight was in General Sherman's hands, hundreds of deserters from the rebel army began to appear in. They said the struggle was no longer hopeful one; that there was no chance of success remaining; and they were glad to get away from the rebels and fight against the Federal army. People in the

around were loud in their professions of loyalty. They had been opposed to this thing in the first place, and wanted to have nothing to do with it, only to lose quietly; that they had been pushed into it against their will, and that they would do just what Jeff Davis and his comrades would do to deal with.

What are the inferences to be drawn from this state of feeling and these facts? Clearly, that the people here now and never before had their hearts in the rebellion and are anxious to seize the first opportunity to show their devotion to the old flag and their love for the Union. Put down the armies, and in their place we shall find growing up a harvest of loyalty. Crush the power of the despotic ruler

long enough for the people to comprehend the situation and appreciate their own strength and their power of resisting tyranny, we can very readily leave the punishment of the ringleaders of the rebellion in the hands of those they have so guiltily misled and betrayed. They "only wish they had Davis and his coadjutors to deal with." If the courts, restore the supremacy of the law and the statute books will tell the people to punish treason and how to deal with torts. When arraigned, the leaders of rebellion can plead nothing in justification and must throw themselves upon the mercy of a despotic-minded people.

1865 Northern fanaticism helped to heat the combustibles, but Southern madness fired the pile.







